Universities in N.E. States

648. SHRI RISHANG KEISHING: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the States where Government have established universities;

(b) the terms and conditions, if any, for establishing the universities;

(c) the consideration or special circumstances under which Government have been compelled to set up universities in some of the N.E. States;

(d) whether some N.E. States have demanded to establish any university or to take over the existing universities; and

(e) if so, Government's response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (e) A Central University is established by the Govt. of India through an Act of Parliament. At present, there are 18 Central Universities located in 11 States/Union Territories, namely, Andhra Pradesh, Assam, Delhi, Maharashtra, Manipur, Meghalaya, Mizoram, Nagaland, Pondicherry, Uttar Pradesh and West Bengal. All the Central Universities, including those in the N.E. States, were established mainly in response to certain historical, cultural or consideration of Centre-State relations and to help remove regional imbalances.

The National Policy on Education, 1986 (as modified in 1992) lays emphasis on consolidation and expansion of facilities in the existing Universities rather than setting up of more Universities. In view of this, the demands from some N.E. States seeking establishment of any new Central University or to convert the existing State Universities into the Central Universities could not be met with in the past. The UGC has, however, been requested to examine a proposal recently received for conversion of Manipur University into a Central University.

Thefts in Museums

649. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that recently a number of thefts have taken place in some leading museums, art galleries etc., which reportedly included the Rabindra Nath Tagore's Nobel Prize Medal and other memorabilia from Shanti Niketan, General Niazis gun from National Museum and a large number of paintings from the Sahitya Kala Parishad in New Delhi.

(b) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to recover them; and

(c) details of the fresh measures taken to revamp the security set-up in and around the buildings which display and/or store such invaluable national property, priceless painting, sculptures etc.?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) to (c) According to the information furnished by Visva Bharati, Shantiniketan. Ministry of Culture and the Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi, the following items were reported missing:

(i) Gurudev Rabindra Nath Tagore's Nobel Prize Medal and other memorabilia from the Rabindranath Memorial Museum, Bichitra, Visva Bharati, Shantiniketan;

(ii) A pistol of Rear Admiral Sharif, Flag Officer Commanding, East Pakistan Naval Forum from the Maritime Heritage Gallery belonging to the Indian Navy located in the National Museum, New Delhi; and

(iii) 30 paintings from the Art Gallery of Sahitya Kala Parishad, a body under the administrative control of Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi.

In order to recover the items, CBI has since taken up investigation of the case relating to the theft of Nobal Prize Medallion etc. of Gurudev Tagore, while the other two cases are being looked into by the Delhi Police.

Apart from tightening the existing security set-up in and around the relevant buildings, the process for deployment of Central Industrial Security Force personnel for providing added security in the complex housing the Rabindra Nath Memorial Museum, Bichitra, Visva Bharati, Shantiniketan

has been set into motion. With a view to providing adequate security, Delhi Government has also arranged for shifting the paintings to the Head Office of the Sahitya Kala Parishad.

Impact of changes in books

650. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the proposed changes in NCERT books would impose a lot of financial strains and psychological trauma on the parents and children; and

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) If change in NCERT text book is to be made, it will be done keeping the interest of every stakeholder in mind.

Hostel buildings

651. SHRI T.R. ZELIANG: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state the number of hostel buildings for school going boys and girls constructed in Nagaland under the Central grant (CSS) during 1995 to 2003, district-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI MD. ALI ASHRAF FATMI): Navodaya Vidyalaya Samiti, an autonomous organisation under this Ministry has utilised central grants from Government of India for opening/operating of Jawahar Navodaya Vidyalayas (JNVs) and construction of their school buildings/staff quarters and hostels for boys and girls, admitted in these vidyalayas only. During the period 1995—2003 sanction for hostels for girls and boys of four JNVs have been issued and construction is in progress. These vidyalayas are situated in districts detailed below: